

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-892

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Bergman Bakery

## 2. Location

street & number Talbot Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Claiborne \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Talbot

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture ___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military ___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Stanton and Jennifer Braverman

street & number telephone no.: 745-5568

city, town Claiborne state and zip code MD 21624

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse liber 533

street & number folio 520

city, town Easton state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-892

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bergman Bakery is located on the south side of Talbot Street in Claiborne, Talbot County, Maryland. The Bakery faces north with the principle gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in 1921, the Bakery is a two-and-a-half story frame structure sheathed in yellow asbestos shingles over the original white weatherboard siding. It is roofed with asphalt shingles and supported by foundation of cement. The house is finished with plain cornerboards and a boxed cornice.

The north (main) elevation has a screened porch extended by the current owners across the entire first story. The enclosure of this porch space necessitated the removal of the round pillars which originally supported the porch roof. This porch has a blue cement floor and a blue ceiling of wainscoting. When the house was first built this was an open, wooden porch. Both the eastern and western most bays of this elevation are five-panel entrance doors with a single light transom. The door to the west was the shop entrance, while the door to the east opened to the baker's living area. A large picture window, the shop window which used to read "Bergman's Bakery", with a double light transom and narrow, white surrounds, lights the large main room of the first floor which served as the shop area. The second story is lit by four one-over-one sash windows. One single six-pane window over a louvered vent lights the attic level.

The east elevation is lit by three one-over-one sash windows on both the first and second storys. The uneven spacing of these windows reflects the location of the interior stair. A two-light over five-panel door is placed on the south end of the first floor. A one-story, shed roof addition is attached to the rear of the house, supported by a cinderblock foundation and roofed with asphalt shingles. This addition has a central door and ends in a screened porch on a large cement pad. The interior of the addition is covered with wide, raw planks of wood and was formerly used as the baker's kitchen. The porch is the former site a large brick oven used in connection with the bakery and removed in the 1950s.

The south elevation has a shed-roof addition across the length of the first story which ends in a screened porch to the east. To the west there is a large swing door behind which there is a cement pad. A large steam boiler which heated the house formerly sat on this pad. The pad was installed to

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-892

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	1921	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Alfred Bergman, according to his daughter Elfrieda Casson, came to the United States from Germany and married a woman from Baltimore. Following their marriage, this couple moved to Tilghman Island where they operated a bakery until it burned. In 1921 Bergman then purchased two lots in Claiborne from Walter Adkins who had been using the land as a pea patch. Bergman's wife's father, Frank Wilmering, and uncle, Andrew Watzle, helped him to build the structure which stands there today.

Bergman's Bakery flourished in Claiborne and at one time he operated bakeries as far away as Cambridge, Easton, St. Michael's, and Federalsburg. Mr. Bergman baked bread, pies, and cakes and made ice cream in the summer time. Besides local clientele, the Bakery was patronized by the ferry companies, who bought his hot dog rolls, and by ferry travelers who waited long hours in line to return to the western shore. Gary Cooper and Fay Wray even visited his store for lunch one day when filming "The First Kiss." Nonplussed by the Hollywood stars, Mr. Bergman remarked that "the chauffeur was the best looking one of them."

The Bergman Bakery operated until 1941, was idle for a few years, and then passed to John and Frances Piaper. Over this twenty year period, the Bergmans employed twenty people, only five of which had not lived in the house. Usually they kept eight people employed including two bakers, three delivery boys, two shop girls, and one kitchen assistant.

After the bakery closed in 1941, the property was idle for a few years until John and Frances Piaper acquired it. The Piapers then sold the property to the current owners twelve years ago. At the time of that sale there were two gas pumps in the front yard which have since been removed.

Survey No. T-892

## PS-2746

T-892

Bergman Bakery Description cont'd.

cap a small spring which bubbled up from the ground there. The central bay of this first story is lit by one six-over-six sash window and pierced by a five-panel door. The second story is lit by three one-over-one sash windows, and this gable end is finished with cornice returns.

The west elevation is lit by three one-over-one sash windows unevenly spaced across the first floor, and four one-over-one sash windows across the second floor. The shed roof addition to the rear of the house is lit by two six-over-six sash windows on the west side.

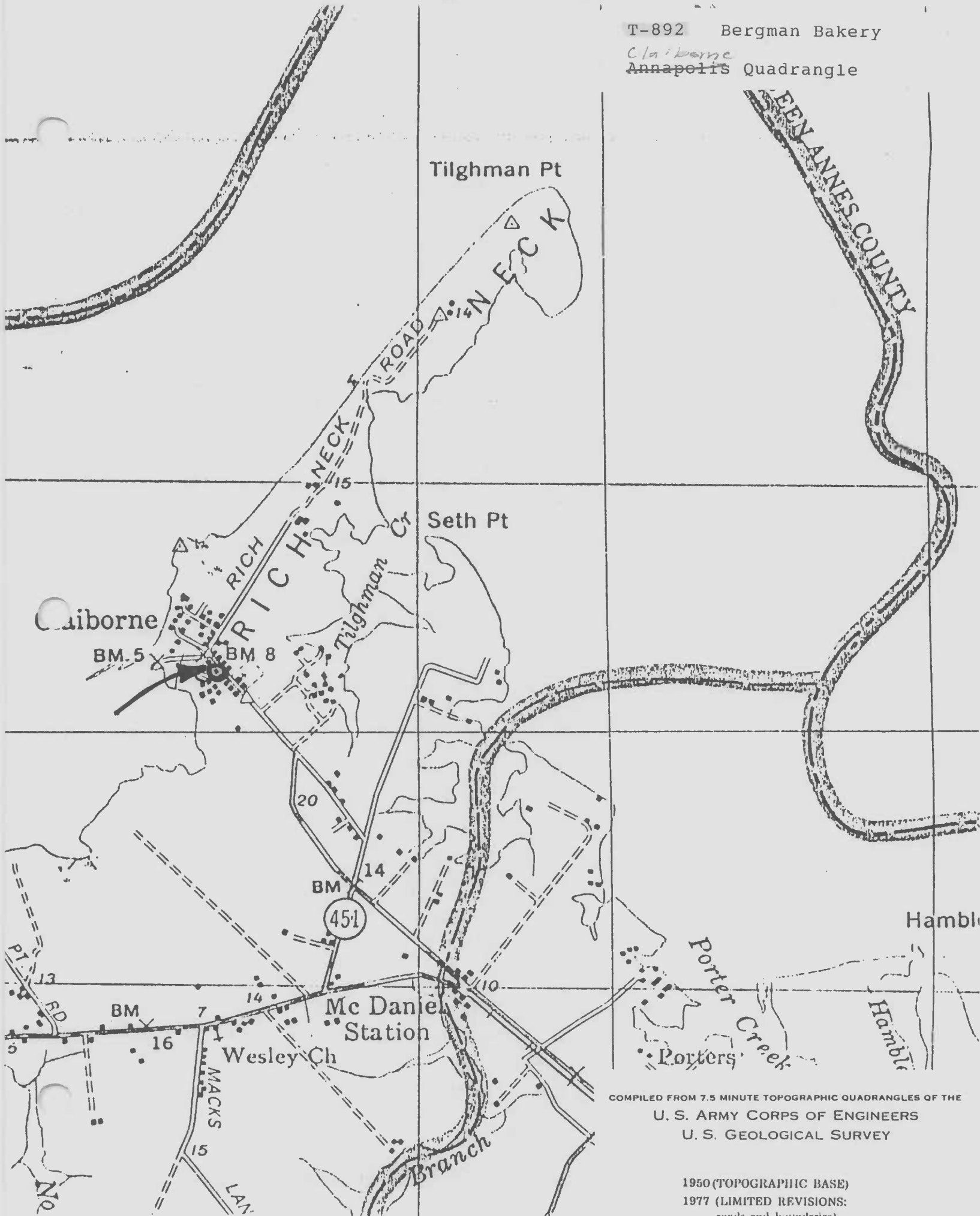
The room configuration of the house's interior is little changed. The first floor of the house is divided into two halves, the western half being the bakeshop, and the eastern half being the baker's residence. Initially, the first floor of the residence consisted of two rooms - a front parlor and a rear kitchen. In 1928 a small kitchen was constructed in the store area, and the rear kitchen of the residence became a dining room. The shop originally had a patterned tin ceiling. Four bedrooms originate off of a central hall on the second floor. These bedrooms were used by the bakery workers, those on the left housed the male workers, those on the right housed the female workers. Two bedrooms at the north end of the house are closed off of the hall as a separate suite where the Bergman family lived.

Originally, a horseshoe shaped drive surrounded the house and seven locust trees filled the rear yard which extended to the railroad tracks. There were five outbuildings. These structures included an ice house, a chicken house, an outhouse, a garage, and an open air dance pavilion. This pavilion was built by Bergman after the one by the railroad burned. Later the pavilion was enclosed and used for storage. One wooden, shed roof outbuilding on the property still stands today.

T-892 Bergman Bakery

Caliborne

Annapolis Quadrangle





T-892

BERGMAN BAKERY

NE

ELEVATION